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BOROUGH OF NEWBURY,  
RURAL DISTRICTS OF BRADFIELD, NEWBURY  
AND HUNGERFORD.

# ANNUAL REPORT



of  
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
(including the reports of the  
Public Health Inspectors)

for the year

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# BOROUGH OF NEWBURY, RURAL DISTRICTS OF BRADFELD, NEWBURY AND HUNGERFORD

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## LIST OF COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

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*Newbury Borough —*

Public Health Committee.

Housing Committee.

*Bradfield R.D. —*

General Purposes Committee.

Sewage and Waterworks Committee.

Housing Committee.

*Newbury R.D. —*

Housing and Public Health Committee.

General Purposes Committee.

*Hungerford R.D. —*

Public Health Committee.

Housing Committee.

Water Committee.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

District	Area in Acres (Land and Inland Water)	Estimated Population	Persons per Acre
Newbury Borough ...	2,612	19,440	7.3
Bradfield Rural .....	53,008	24,410	0.4
Newbury Rural .....	41,660	20,150	0.5
Hungerford Rural .....	44,817	9,890	0.22
Totals .....	142,097	73,890	2.11

The population of the combined areas rose by 620 during the year. The excess of births over deaths was 655. This means that 35 people left the district. The most striking area for this migration was Newbury Rural where in spite of an excess of births over deaths amounting to 173, the population nevertheless dropped by 1,250.

Area	Births	Deaths	Population Change (+ or -)	Births minus Deaths
Newbury Borough .....	402	212	+160	190
Bradfield R.D. ....	480	232	+1680	248
Newbury R.D. ....	345	172	-1250	173
Hungerford R.D. ....	159	115	+30	44
Combined Districts ...	1386	731	+620	655

District	No. of Occupied Properties	No. of new Houses built			Rateable Value	Product of a Penny rate
		Private	By L.A.	Other		
Newbury Borough	6078	91	104	Nil	£307,842	£1,247
Bradfield Rural ...	6549	164	55	Nil	£341,775	£1,427
Newbury Rural ...	5049	76	45	Nil	£241,549	£970
Hungerford Rural	2932	18	37	Nil	£82,238	£313

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births and Infant Deaths

The following table shows the totals of births and infant deaths and the rates per thousand appropriate population. The corresponding figures for 1956 are in brackets.

District	Number of Live Births	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
Newbury Borough	402 (379)	21.2 (20.2)	9 (14)	22.4 (31.4)
Bradfield Rural	480 (431)	18.3 (18.0)	8 (10)	16.7 (21.1)
Newbury Rural	345 (324)	19.2 (18.5)	4 (6)	11.6 (21.6)
Hungerford Rural	159 (159)	18.0 (17.9)	6 (1)	37.7 (5.3)
United Districts	1386(1293)	18.8 (18.6)	27 (31)	19.5 (19.8)
England and Wales		(15.7)		(23.8)

The “area comparability factor” calculated by the Registrar General’s office, and making allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of local populations differs from that for England and Wales as a whole, has been applied to the rates given above. These rates therefore are comparable, the one with the other and also with the crude rate for England and Wales. The numbers involved however are small, and even the slightest increase or decrease becomes greatly magnified and an unreliable guide, when rates per thousand are calculated. The infant mortality rates given for Hungerford Rural District in the above table are typical examples.

In addition to the births accounted for in the above table, there were 19 stillbirths — 13 fewer than last year.

An overwhelming majority of the infant deaths occurred during the first four weeks of life. The actual figures concerned are set out in the following table:

Area	Total Infant Deaths	Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age
Newbury Borough .....	9	7
Bradfield Rural District .....	8	5
Newbury Rural District .....	4	2
Hungerford Rural District ...	6	5

These figures reflect the general finding throughout the country.

### Maternal Mortality

Only one death in the area was attributable to childbirth or abortion during 1957.

# CAUSES OF DEATH

(Figures for 1957 are in brackets).

DEATHS:	Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Newbury Rural	Hunger- ford Rural	Total (all areas)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4 (1)	3 (1)	— (—)	— (1)	7 (3)
Tuberculosis, other ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Syphilitic disease ...	1 (—)	2 (1)	— (1)	1 (1)	4 (3)
Diphtheria .....	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)
Meningococcal infections .....	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Measles .....	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Other infective and parasitic diseases...	— (—)	1 (—)	— (1)	— (—)	1 (1)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	2 (8)	4 (3)	7 (2)	2 (3)	15 (16)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	9 (9)	8 (12)	6 (6)	6 (2)	29 (29)
Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	2 (6)	5 (3)	3 (2)	— (1)	10 (12)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	2 (1)	3 (2)	— (—)	— (1)	5 (4)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	19 (23)	21 (16)	18 (18)	10 (11)	68 (68)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— (1)	— (1)	3 (—)	1 (1)	4 (3)
Diabetes .....	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (—)	1 (1)	4 (3)
Vascular lesions of ner- vous systems—stroke	52 (85)	27 (33)	22 (36)	14 (17)	115(144)
Coronary disease, angina .....	30 (39)	37 (41)	16 (18)	19 (14)	102(112)
Hypertension with heart disease .....	2 (2)	6 (4)	3 (2)	3 (5)	14 (13)
Other heart disease...	26 (52)	20 (26)	37 (30)	14 (14)	97(122)
Other circulatory disease	8 (11)	16 (13)	6 (11)	4 (6)	34 (41)
Influenza .....	2 (1)	4 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)	10 (7)
Pneumonia .....	12 (15)	14 (10)	12 (9)	6 (2)	44 (36)
Bronchitis .....	8 (10)	14 (8)	9 (15)	8 (3)	39 (36)
Other diseases of respiratory system	— (2)	2 (3)	2 (1)	2 (—)	6 (6)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	3 (2)	1 (2)	2 (1)	3 (1)	9 (16)
Gastritis, enteris and diarrhoea .....	— (2)	3 (1)	1 (—)	— (1)	4 (4)
Nephritis & nephrosis	1 (—)	— (3)	— (2)	— (—)	1 (5)
Hyperplasia of prostate	2 (1)	— (1)	3 (2)	1 (1)	6 (5)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Congenital malformations .....	2 (1)	3 (1)	1 (3)	2 (—)	8 (5)
Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	12 (22)	23 (24)	13 (8)	10 (6)	58 (60)
Motor vehicle accidents	2 (2)	5 (3)	— (5)	2 (2)	9 (12)
All other accidents...	7 (5)	4 (6)	4 (3)	2 (3)	17 (17)
Suicide .....	2 (1)	3 (2)	2 (1)	1 (—)	8 (4)
Homicide and operations of war	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
All causes .....	212(273)	232(223)	172(178)	115(100)	731(774)



Again diseases of the circulation led the field among the causes of death. This is a finding which is universal throughout the country. Cancer of the lung, although causing no more deaths than last year, is nevertheless the most common of the malignant diseases in this table of mortalities.

### PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified in each district during 1957.

Disease	Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Hunger- ford Rural	Newbury Rural	Total All Areas
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	8	5	1	5	19
Erysipelas .....	1	1	3	1	6
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	4	6	—	5	15
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encaphalitis					
Lethargica .....	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	4	—	—	1	5
Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	46	15	8	69
Measles .....	66	389	310	147	912
Whooping Cough .....	14	29	46	18	107
Food Poisoning .....	1	1	—	—	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	14	14	6	10	44
Other Forms of Tuberculosis .....	3	2	2	2	9

There have been no notable outbreaks of notifiable infectious disease during the year, although large numbers of Measles were notified. This however is an expected finding as 1956 gave a very low incidence of this disease. It is a notable feature that the incidence reaches high levels in approximately alternate years.

The disease which reached the highest incidence during the year was Influenza, which affected this area about October. Influenza is of course not notifiable. The first wave of the disease struck mainly at the school population, and at times as many as half the pupils of a school were absent with this condition. Your Medical Officer of Health at that time and the members of the Public Health Laboratory at Reading took throat swabs and blood samples from typical cases of the disease, and after an interval of about 10 days, which is necessary for the performance of the laboratory tests, the Influenza was confirmed as the Asian type. After this initial wave the disease subsided, but swept back later affecting mainly the adult population. Fortunately complications were few and the disease seems to have been of a comparatively mild type. Towards the end of the epidemic some Influenza vaccine became available and was in fact given by the Public Health staff to persons considered to be at particular risk.

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946.

The Newbury Health Sub-Committee is responsible for diphtheria immunisation at the Infant Welfare Clinics in the Borough of Newbury.

Immunisations are carried out at Child Welfare Centres and by the general practitioners, who are also responsible for vaccinations (save those few carried out at one or two infant clinics in the county).

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1957

*Number of Children Immunized against Diphtheria*

(Figures for 1956 in brackets)

District	Under 1	Over 1 but Under 5	5—15	Total
<i>Newbury Borough—</i>				
Primary .....	234 (160)	41 (76)	3 (13)	278 (249)
Booster .....	— (—)	16 (19)	30 (78)	46 (97)
<i>Bradfield Rural—</i>				
Primary .....	198 (176)	51 (62)	6 (9)	255 (247)
Booster .....	— (—)	8 (12)	46 (75)	54 (87)
<i>Newbury Rural—</i>				
Primary .....	176 (158)	24 (62)	1 (9)	201 (229)
Booster .....	— (—)	9 (6)	11 (20)	20 (26)
<i>Hungerford Rural—</i>				
Primary .....	78 (72)	16 (31)	2 (2)	96 (105)
Booster .....	— (—)	4 (2)	3 (2)	7 (4)

*The following table shows the total number of Diphtheria Immunisations carried out in the four areas during the last ten years.*

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
<i>Newbury Borough—</i>										
Under 5 .....	203	131	193	267	223	206	178	215	236	275
5—15 .....	18	2	9	27	53	46	6	8	13	3
<i>Bradfield Rural—</i>										
Under 5 .....	208	236	211	266	251	281	290	261	238	249
5—15 .....	11	10	23	34	41	72	44	79	9	6
<i>Newbury Rural—</i>										
Under 5 .....	180	152	134	168	154	154	84	157	220	200
5—15 .....	6	1	3	4	5	41	3	4	9	1
<i>Hungerford Rural—</i>										
Under 5 .....	117	131	82	78	60	111	114	137	103	94
5—15 .....	3	1	1	1	3	4	2	—	2	2
Total ...	746	664	656	845	790	915	721	861	830	830

## VACCINATION, 1957

(Figures for 1956 in brackets)

District	Under 1	Over 1 but Under 5	5—15	Total
<i>Newbury Borough—</i>				
Primary .....	171 (184)	31 (25)	51 (37)	253 (246)
Re-Vaccination	— (—)	6 (2)	46 (74)	52 (76)
<i>Bradfield Rural—</i>				
Primary .....	221 (215)	10 (13)	15 (15)	246 (243)
Re-Vaccination	— (—)	6 (1)	67 (40)	73 (41)
<i>Newbury Rural—</i>				
Primary .....	195 (179)	33 (18)	30 (25)	258 (222)
Re-Vaccination	— (—)	3 (3)	43 (80)	46 (83)
<i>Hungerford Rural—</i>				
Primary .....	75 (76)	7 (3)	3 (2)	85 (81)
Re-Vaccination	— (—)	1 (1)	6 (6)	7 (7)
Total ...	662 (654)	97 (66)	261(279)	1020 (999)

*The following table shows the number of Children who during the past eight years were vaccinated when under one year of age.*

District	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Newbury Borough ...	27	60	93	146	113	136	184	171
Bradfield Rural .....	105	225	187	174	176	232	215	221
Newbury Rural .....	46	118	119	119	91	140	179	195
Hungerford Rural ...	29	59	61	83	85	97	76	75
Total ...	207	262	360	522	465	605	654	662

The total number of vaccinations carried out in infants under one year of age is again the highest recorded. Expressed, however, as a percentage of the live births, there is again a drop compared with 1956. Only Newbury Rural District shows an increase in the vaccination rate.

*Number of Vaccinations carried out in infants under one year, compared with the annual number of births.*

Area	Year	Live Births	Vaccinations	Percentage
Newbury Borough .....	1955	321	136	42
	1956	379	184	45.5
	1957	402	171	42.5
Bradfield R.D.C. ....	1955	372	232	62.4
	1956	431	215	49.8
	1957	480	221	46.6
Newbury R.D.C. ....	1955	323	140	43
	1956	324	179	55
	1957	345	195	56.5
Hungerford R.D.C. ...	1955	152	97	52
	1956	159	76	47.7
	1957	159	75	47.2
Combined Districts ...	1955	1168	605	51.7
	1956	1293	654	50.5
	1957	1386	662	47.8

**NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1957**

Age Periods			Newbury Borough		Bradfield Rural		Newbury Rural		Hungerford Rural	
			Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.
0	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1	—	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
5	—	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
15	—	20	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	—
20	—	25	—	—	3	—	—	1	2	1
25	—	35	1	—	2	1	4	—	2	—
35	—	45	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
45	—	55	2	—	3	—	2	—	—	—
55	—	65	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
65 & upwards			4	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	...		14	3	14	2	10	1	6	2



The following table shows the number of new cases of tuberculosis (respiratory and non-respiratory) which have occurred in the four areas during the last ten years.

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Totals
1948	48	11	59
1949	79	7	86
1950	54	6	60
1951	54	16	69
1952	42	7	49
1953	52	3	55
1954	37	8	45
1955	43	7	50
1956	60	7	67
1957	44	8	52

# BOROUGH OF NEWBURY

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## Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

The time has arrived once more when one of the (legal) duties of the office has to receive attention, and in order to fulfil that duty there is set out in the attached pages a statement which give some indication of the work carried out by the department during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1957. Obviously, figures cannot convey much more than an indication of the work entailed, for this is not capable of exact measurement. One thing that can be measured is the help and assistance which is received from one's colleagues, and the satisfaction that such a state of affairs conveys. There is this drawback however: the number of times such a statement is recorded is an indication of the passage of the years for each time one mentions that fact, one is at least twelve months older. Nevertheless, recording and acknowledgement of such a pleasing condition should be made.

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Continuing the previous practice, it is now desired to comment on some of the work and some of the statements in the report. That meat inspection still remains one of the primary duties will be appreciated by members of the Public Health Committee in particular and members of the Council in general. It is pleasing to report that at last there has been some mechanisation in one of the slaughterhouses resulting in a considerable decrease in the number of hours worked there, and an appreciable reduction in the amount of manual labour required to "put through" a number of pigs which approached the numbers dealt with in previous years. At the beginning of the year two wholesale butchers, plus a number of retail butchers, were using this slaughterhouse—which is owned by the Corporation—but one of the wholesalers discontinued using the premises in August. This was due to the fact that he had erected another slaughterhouse in the adjoining rural district.

In addition to the installation of the apparatus mentioned earlier, at the same slaughterhouse a number of alterations and additions were made which have materially improved the methods of slaughter and ease of handling of pigs killed at this slaughterhouse.

For the first time for a number of years there has been a reduction in the number of carcasses slaughtered and inspected, and a decrease also in the number of cattle units (which calculation is based on the formula of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and relates to the size and work entailed in slaughtering and dressing the respective animals. Obviously one beast equals one cattle unit). The carcasses of all the animals killed have been inspected; a state of affairs which has continued for well over ten years past.

Last year attention was drawn to the development of the sale of pre-packed meat, and the question as to future development of this practice was raised. Here it can be said quite emphatically that the practice is developing and it seems will continue to develop, for it is unlikely that retailers will place in their shops costly equipment to display such packages unless there was going to be some profit from this action. To date, the development is confined mainly to food shops, for example, grocers, and the sale of pre-packed articles in other than food premises has not occurred.

### *Ice-cream.*

There is only one firm manufacturing ice-cream with in the Borough and it is a source of both satisfaction and interest to record that all the samples taken of the products of this manufacturer have been classed as "Satisfactory," thus maintaining the record of many years past.

The number of ice-cream manufacturers whose products were sold in the Borough during the year was four, which figure shows no variation. The number of retailers of these products was ninety-two; a reduction of five.

### *Milk.*

There is little on which to comment in this connection, except to note two matters, both of them difficult for a time but both of which were overcome. The first relates to the "teething troubles" resulting from the installation of a new bottle-washing plant at one dairy. It was in the early part of the year that this plant was installed, and for a while the bottle rinses were being adversely reported on. Eventually, however, the troubles were surmounted, since which time there has been no further difficulty and the bottles have reached and maintained a satisfactory standard. The other item—from the same dairy—refers to the foil capping of bottles and the chemical effect of long storage and contact with milk. The story goes somewhat as follows (which is an extract from a report on the subject to the Public Health Committee):

"An interesting and, at the same time, a disturbing series of events has now to be recorded. It concerns the milk supplied in bottles by and from a dairy in the town and relates to one day's supply circulated a few weeks ago.

A number of complaints were received from customers of this dairy regarding the condition of the milk delivered to them and all relating to milk received on a particular day. The proprietor of the dairy also had many complaints of the "peculiar taste of the milk" and he contacted this office regarding the matter. The circumstances were as follows:

Some of the milk for this day's delivery was bottled, and for capping a roll of green coloured foil was used. There were bottles capped with foil of another colour but against this milk no complaint was made. A sample of the milk from a "green capped" bottle was obtained and certain tests, such as taste and smell, were applied. The result in this instance was 'satisfactory'—no unpleasant taste or smell being noted. When the milk was added to tea there was a different story—a strong taint developed, described variously as 'carbolic' or 'soapy.' Now came the question of elimination of possible sources of taint and how to fix its cause or causes.

A detailed inspection of the heat treatment plant and of the bottling and capping plant were carried out with negative results, so we were back to the consideration of either the milk, the bottles or the foil. By a process of elimination the two former were excluded and it became reasonably certain that the latter was the culprit. To test that theory was the next step and it was because of the *apparent* unlikely nature of the foil being the causative agent that this step was taken, for such a case was outside my experience. However, the Public Analyst agreed to ascertain whether such a theory was tenable. Both milk and foil were sent and the result of the tests made by him showed that the taint was metallic and such as would be obtained if milk came into contact with copper. Both milk and foil were found to contain some copper, and whilst it was said that this was not *conclusive* evidence, it was certainly significant.

Both the proprietor of the dairy and the manufacturers of the foil were informed of the findings.



The causes of the trouble were not pin-pointed; whether it was due to the use of foil which had been kept in store too long, and as a consequence, the film of vegetable oil used in wrapping the foil had dispersed and allowed the colour on the obverse to come in contact with the reverse; whether it was due to errors in manufacture, or what was the specific cause has not yet been ascertained, but it can be said that neither the proprietor of the dairy nor his staff wish to see a recurrence of this trouble, and therefore, green foil will not be used again in a hurry, and certainly there will be more attention paid to the 'turnover' of the stocks of foil.

A matter of interest is that, where the milk bottle caps made of green foil were preformed, no trouble was experienced; the taint seems to have evaporated, but where the caps were taken from the continuous foil strip with little exposure to the air, then the taint was present."

Another item that has to be recorded is that the point made in the previous report to the effect that hand-washing of milk bottles gives a greater possibility of error than machine-washing, was proved again, for on four occasions the rinses of bottles washed by hand and at one dairy only were found to be "not satisfactory." This condition was overcome, and for the last few months of the year little trouble was experienced from this source.

### *Housing.*

In the 1956 report it was stated that the Council had taken action in respect of thirty-one substandard houses, and that Demolition Orders were to be made in respect of nineteen of those houses; twelve other houses would be the subject of undertakings by the owners not to re-let when vacated by the present tenants. Since that date other houses have been reported to the Committee and Demolition Orders have been issued in respect of a further twelve houses.

The tables set out in the body of the report will give an indication of the progress made in this connection during the year.

### *Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.*

The work to which special attention was drawn during the previous year was continued, but naturally on a less urgent scale, due to the fact that in most instances the premises satisfied the requirements of the Regulations. There were exceptions of course, but attention was paid to them, and as a result, the works mentioned in the appropriate table were executed and completed.

### *Shops.*

The detailed analysis of shops showing the businesses carried on at the premises gives an indication both as to number and diversity of trades. The number has now increased, as was only to be expected by the building of so many additional houses during the year.

## SECTION A

### General Administration

TABLE No. 1

#### SUMMARY :

Total number of inspections	...	...	...	...	6,523
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	66
Preliminary notices served	...	...	...	...	218
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	3
Interviews with tenants or owners representatives re above					326



TABLE No. 2

ANALYSIS OF MAJOR ITEMS COVERED BY  
“ TOTAL INSPECTIONS ” :

Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Inspection of meat and other foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,879
Premises at which food is prepared, stored or sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,206
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
Factories and workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	457
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	303
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	987

TABLE No. 3

## PREMISES AT WHICH IMPROVEMENTS WERE EFFECTED :

Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Premises used for preparation and sale of food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Factories and workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

*New Legislation.*

During the year the following legislation, all of which affects the duties of the Deaprtment in some degree, came into operation, viz:—

Housing Act, 1957.

Rent Act, 1957.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations, 1957.

**SECTION B****Housing**

(This is a copy of the return required by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government).

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES  
ELSEWHERE.

Return for year 1957.

**A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED***In Clearance Areas*

(Housing Act, 1957)

	<i>Houses demolished</i>	<i>Displaced during year Persons</i>	<i>Families</i>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation ...	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc. ...	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—	—

*Not in Clearance Areas*

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	56	25
---	----	----

**B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED**

	<i>Number</i>		
(5) Under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	9	29	9
(6) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	—	—	—
(7) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—	—

**C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED**

	<i>By Owner</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>
(8) After informal action by local authority	62	
(9) After formal notice under:		
(a) Public Health Acts	—	—
(b) Section 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	—	—
(10) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957...	—	—

**D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)**

Position at end of 1957.		
(11) Retained for temporary accommodation		
	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)</i>
	(1)	(2)
(a) Under Section 48 ... ..	—	—
(b) Under Section 17(2) ... ..	—	—
(c) Under Section 46 ... ..	—	—
(12) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 ... ..	—	

**E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT**

	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Number of occupants of houses in column (1)</i>
	(1)	(2)
(13) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the year 1957	—	—

*Housing Act, 1957.*

*Substandard Housing — Individual Unfit Houses.*

Demolition Orders were made in respect of twelve houses during the year but the physical act of demolition had not commenced at any property by the end of the year.

*Re-housing.*

Twenty-eight of the families living in houses which were the subject of action under Section 17(1) were re-housed in Corporation houses during the year, and six other families—originally similarly accommodated—found accommodation in other properties.

At the year end, eight families remained to be dealt with.

*Rent Act, 1957.*

Seven applications for a Certificate of Disrepair were received by the Council, and one certificate was in fact issued, whilst in another case an undertaking was received from the owner promising to carry out the works set out in Form J which had been served on him.

*Repair and Maintenance of Dwelling Houses.*

Ninety-five houses were inspected and one hundred and twenty-seven visits paid to these properties during repairs and to ascertain progress. As the result of the service of notices, works were carried out at sixty-two houses.

*Overcrowding.*

One new case of overcrowding was recorded and remained unsolved at the year's end.

*Moveable Dwellings.*

During the year, thirteen moveable dwellings were licenced by the Council; three of the licences were issued to applicants who desired to use the caravans whilst a house was being built on the site. Nine caravans were remaining on their own licensed sites at the end of the year. There was no licensed site on which more than one caravan was stationed.

One application for a licence to station and use a caravan was refused.

## SECTION C

### Safeguarding of Food Supplies

1	Number of food premises inspected and re-inspected ...	...	1,206
2	Notifications of works required to premises ...	...	15
3	Notifications in 1956/57—fully complied with ...	...	39
	—partly complied with ...	...	18
	—not complied with ...	...	—
4	Number of separate items involved in notifications under (2) above ...	...	36
5	Number of items completed during the year ...	...	195

*Details of works completed:*

Provision of refuse bins ...	...	3
Provision of wash hand basins ...	...	21
Provision of constant hot water to wash hand basins ...	...	31
Provision of sinks ...	...	4
Provision of constant hot water to sinks ...	...	8
Provision of locker accommodation for outdoor clothes ...	...	17
Provision of impervious surfaces to fittings ...	...	18
Re-decoration of food rooms ...	...	8
Miscellaneous improvements, i.e., covering of cutting-up tables and walls ...	...	85
		195



A few matters which are tentatively referred to in the opening statement of this report merit more detailed attention.

As has been stated, the Food Hygiene Regulations were more closely complied with at many more premises during the year, and whilst the condition of the premises is no criteria as to the practices carried out therein, it is nevertheless true to say that the better the premises, the better the prospect of good practice in both handling and care of food on the premises.

There was an extension of (a) the number of people preparing pre-packed meat, and (b) the number of people retailing such products, and the expansion of this type of business is becoming most marked. From the point of view of the customer it has the merit of apparent economy of effort, for it saves the need to make any decision as to whether to have one of a number of articles, and also by reason of the fact that the articles can be purchased in grocers shops, has the merit of accessibility, i.e., saving in many instances a long journey to the butchers, and the fact that the product is displayed in such a way that it can be readily identified and assessed. There are now three local firms engaged in the pre-packing of meat for retail sale, and each of the three is also in business as a butcher. The number of people retailing such pre-packed meat is not readily available, but it can be said that not all the meat so sold is packed locally.

#### *Egg crystals.*

As a result of information received from a Metropolitan Borough, samples of hen egg albumen crystals, said to have been pasteurised before sale and in the possession of a local baker, were submitted to the Bacteriologist and his report stated that bacteria of the salmonella group were present. This was an unusual state of affairs and disturbing to some degree, for one should be able to assume that the *efficient* pasteurisation of any foodstuff would result in an almost sterile product. The result may have been due to the standard of the process not being high enough.

All the material concerned, which was on the premises of this one baker and confectioner, was returned to the suppliers, who promised to see that the material was re-treated. The new supplies sent as replacements were "treble-tested" and found free from the organisms previously mentioned.

#### *Milk and Dairies.*

Twenty-four licences permitting the holder to deal in milk to which a "special designation" is applied were issued, and related to the following.

Licences authorising the holder to deal in Tuberculin Tested milk = 10  
 Licences authorising the holder to deal in Pasteurised milk ... = 9  
 Licences authorising the holder to deal in Sterilised milk ... = 5

#### *Bacteriological Examination of Milk.*

<i>Samples Procured for:</i>	<i>Type of Milk</i>	<i>Total samples taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1 Examination for Tubercle Bacilli	Raw	12	12	—	—
2 Methylene Blue Test ...	T.T. Past	49 36	34 35	9 —	5 void 6 void
3 Phosphatase Test	Past	36	35	—	1 void
4 Turbidity Test ...	Sterilised	5	5	—	—



Reference has been made to certain troubles experienced as a result of a new bottle-washing plant being installed and the use of certain foil. The only other major troubles were associated with the supply of Tuberculin Tested milk received from a retailer with premises outside the Borough. This milk had been adversely reported on on a number of occasions, and as a consequence of action taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the position was resolved by a change of producer, the retailer being released from his contract by the Milk Marketing Board.

*Bottle Rinses.*

	No. of samples taken for examination	Results of examinations:			
		Satis- factory	Fairly satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Void
Hand washed ...	19	15	1	3	—
Machine Washed	19	13	—	4	2
	38	28	1	7	2

The unsatisfactory results noted here are referred to in an earlier statement.

*Manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream.*

Ninety-seven samples of ice-cream were examined and were placed in the following Grades:

Grade I	...	86	(88 %)
Grade II	...	6	(7 %)
Grade III	...	5	(5 %)
Grade IV	...	0	

The five samples placed in Grade III were all from one retailer and from one machine at that retailer's premises. They all boiled down to the fact that insufficient attention was paid to the proper cleaning of the plant, and this appeared to be due to the frequent change of operators of the plant; a condition which does not assist in the detailed attention to cleanliness or the proper running of any plant.

*Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods.*

The number of registered premises engaged in the preparation and manufacture of preserved foods remains the same, namely: nineteen. At some of these premises there were alterations both of practice and condition undertaken during the year.

*Bakehouses.*

Again there is a reduction in the number of premises registered as being used as bakehouses, for two further premises were closed during the year, leaving now only twelve in use in the Borough; a continuation of the trend mentioned in earlier reports. Both the bakehouses had been in use for very many years and their closure is indicative of the present economic trend to concentrate baking in larger units.

WEIGHTS OF CANNED AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED  
AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	38 lbs.
Canned ham	...	...	...	...	...	201 lbs.
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	84 lbs.
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	40 lbs.
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	112 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	200 lbs.
Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Tinned food	...	...	...	...	...	860 lbs.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	84 lbs.

Total weight condemned = 14 cwts. 57 lbs.

There was a slight increase in the total weight of goods condemned as compared with last year, the increase being most marked in the case of canned ham.

*Slaughterhouses.*

For the first seven months of the year there were three slaughterhouses in regular use, but for the last five months of the period, one slaughterhouse was not being used. As to the other two, both of them were used by wholesale butchers, that belonging to the Corporation being used additionally on behalf of a number of retail butchers having businesses both inside and outside the Borough. In the early part of the year two wholesale butchers were using the Corporation slaughterhouse, but one later removed to new premises in the rural district. The slaughtering accommodation which had formerly been used by him was taken over by the second wholesaler who had been using the Corporation slaughterhouse, and although there was a slight reduction in the number of animals slaughtered, it was really of little consequence.

There were a number of alterations and additions made by the tenants at the Corporation slaughterhouse, and these have resulted in a freer flowing arrangement, and with the degree of mechanisation—to which earlier reference has been made—there is an improvement both in working conditions and production. Production in this connection relates to through-put, and when it is understood that one process which formerly took minutes is now dealt with in under the minute, the saving of both time and effort will be appreciated.

Three things stand out in connection with the carcasses inspected at the slaughterhouses, namely: there has been a considerable increase in the number of cattle found to be suffering from cysticercosis, whilst there has been a considerable reduction in the number of animals found to be affected with tuberculosis and in the number of sheep suffering from liver fluke, both the latter conditions being interesting commentaries on the preventive work of veterinarians in the field. If cattle etc. can come into the slaughterhouses in a more healthy state, then the result will be an advantage to the producer, the wholesaler, the retailer and the customer. Although the table may appear to give the lie to these observations, the statements can be proved from the records, for the increase of approximately three tons in the amount of meat and offal condemned relates to diseases and conditions other than the two to which special attention is drawn in the earlier part of this paragraph.

### *Slaughter of Animals Acts.*

The Council issued seventeen licences during the year, and of these, the holders were in thirteen cases authorised to slaughter all animals, whilst in the remaining four cases, the holders were restricted to the slaughter of the smaller classes of animals, for example: sheep, calves, goats etc.

### WEIGHTS OF CONDEMNED MEAT AND OFFAL

Classification.					Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.
(1) At slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	16	17	28
(2) On retailer's premises:							
(a) Home killed	...	...	...	...		1	8
(b) Imported	...	...	...	...		3	46
(3) Total weight	...	...	...	...	17	1	82

### *Meat Inspection.*

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number slaughtered	3,243	1,051	2,593	18,419	19,590	44,896
Number inspected	3,243	1,051	2,593	18,419	19,590	44,896
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci —</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	12	8	92	115
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	512	280	4	480	1,213	2,489
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	16.1	26.9	0.6	2.6	6.6	
<i>Tuberculosis only —</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	3	—	4	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	50	53	—	—	237	340
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.5	5.0	0.1	—	1.2	
<i>Cysticercosis —</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	2	—	—	—	9
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	7	2	—	—	—	9
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—



**SECTION D**  
**Factories, Workplaces and Shops**  
**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**  
*Part I of the Act.*

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	98	83	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	158	374	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	256	457	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	6	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork ... ..)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	8	10	—	1	—



## *Shops.*

*Classified list of businesses carried on at shops within the Borough.*

General stores/grocers	...	...	...	...	...	67
Public houses and hotels		...	...	...	...	48
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	26
Sweets/tobacconists	...	...	...	...	...	35
Tobacconists	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	25
Jewellers	...	...	...	...	...	11
Drapers	...	...	...	...	...	15
Outfitters	...	...	...	...	...	14
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	8
Furniture	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ironmongers/hardware	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	22
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Corn merchants	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cycle dealers	...	...	...	...	...	7
Motor sales etc.	...	...	...	...	...	15
Shoes and/or accessories	...	...	...	...	...	19
Gunsmiths and sports equipment		...	...	...	...	2
Radio and electrical goods	...	...	...	...	...	12
Newsagents and stationers	...	...	...	...	...	19
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fish friers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Greengrocers and fruiterers		...	...	...	...	18
Florists	...	...	...	...	...	6
Wine merchants	...	...	...	...	...	7
Photographers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Toys	...	...	...	...	...	4
Antique dealers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Opticians	...	...	...	...	...	4
Leather goods	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	4

412 shop premises in occupation.

In addition to the work detailed in the tables, four factories were inspected in association with the Fire Prevention Officer of the Berkshire and Reading Fire Brigade, and in two instances, certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire were issued by the Council to the occupiers of the premises.

## SECTION E

### Pest Infestation Control and Disinfection

*Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.*

*Return of work by Rodent Operatives.*

	Type of property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	21	5,840	5	1,090	6,956
2. Number of properties inspected by Local Authority during 1957 ... (a)	2	185	—	47	234
as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise ... (b)	42	417	—	18	477
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats	Major — Minor 26	— 274	— —	— 32	— 332
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice ...	2	96	—	16	114
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	28	370	—	48	446
6. Number of notices served under Section 4: ...					
(1) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural works (i.e., Proofing) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4 ...	—	—	—	—	—
8. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of "block" control schemes carried out = 87.					

The test treatment of sewers in the Borough was undertaken with a new bait and were found to be clear of infestations.

# BRADFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

## Report of Public Health Inspector

### Water.

<i>Location of extension</i>	<i>Length in yards</i>	<i>Houses served</i>
Reading Water Dept.		
Bath Road, Theale ... ..	121	11
Crown Lane, Theale ... ..	95	5
Boundary Close, Tilehurst ... ..	164	6
Firs Road, Tilehurst ... ..	18	1
Birch Farm Site 2, Tilehurst ... ..	616	46
— do. — ... ..	390	31
Mid-Wessex Water Co.		
Aldermaston Village ... ..	1,294	82
The Avenue, Mortimer ... ..	135	8
Three Firs Estate, Sulhamstead ... ..	1,000	148
Bradfield to Windmill pumping station	681	nil

### Water Samples.

Thirty-seven water samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Of these 19 were unsatisfactory. Appropriate action was taken in these cases.

### HOUSING TABLE

#### *Number of Dwellinghouses Built:*

1. By Local Authority ... ..	55
2. By Private Enterprise ... ..	164

#### *Inspections of Dwellinghouses during the year:*

1. (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects ... ..	1,700
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose ... ..	2,300
2. Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation and not capable of repair at reasonable cost	11
3. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those in 2 above) found to be unfit but capable of repair at reasonable cost ... ..	4

#### *Remedy of defects during the year:*

4. Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action ... ..	4
5. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit—statutory notices	Nil
6. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... ..	6
7. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... ..	8
8. Number of dwellinghouses included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister of Health ... ..	Nil
9. Number of houses included in Clearance Areas proposed by the Local Authority ... ..	Nil
10. Number of houses included in Re-development areas ...	Nil
11. Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance or Re-development Orders ... ..	Nil



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.  
REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1958.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural		Total of Cols. (1) & (3) (4)	Agricultural (5)	
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (inc. Business Premises) (3)		
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District .....	33	7,740	472	8,245	431
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification ...	—	141	22	163	6
(b) Survey under the Act .....	33	3,769	331	4,133	201
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose...	—	111	41	152	3
3. Total inspections carried out, including reinspections ...	120	4,632	445	5,197	261
4. Number of properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats—Major ...	5	21	8	34	14
Minor ...	17	372	25	414	37
(b) Mice—Major ...	1	48	20	69	6
Minor ...	—	17	—	17	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 4) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Sect. 4) ...	23	419	32	474	—
6. Total treatments carried out, including re-treatments	28	611	40	679	—
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment .....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	10	10	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act .....	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out .....	6	29	8	43	9

# SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1957

N.B.—Smoke abatement under the Housing Acts and Factories and Workshops Acts should not be included in this table.

Bakeries come under the Factories and Workshops Acts.

Number of different premises visited	...	...	...	...	2,750
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	4,300
Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	135
Number of defects and nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	110
Number of Notices served — informal	...	...	...	...	15
statutory	...	...	...	...	8
Number of prosecutions	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of defects or nuisances abated:					
as to W.C's., sink wastes, etc.	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Drains and cesspools	...	...	...	...	12
„ Pigs or other animals	...	...	...	...	2
„ Deficient or impure water	...	...	...	...	15
„ Unclean houses	...	...	...	...	1
„ Overcrowded houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Polluted ditches, streams, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	...	...	...	6
„ Other defects or nuisances	...	...	...	...	25
Number of premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	4
Number of water samples taken for examination	...	...	...	...	37
Number of wells closed	...	...	...	...	15
Number of wells cleaned, repaired or deepened	...	...	...	...	3
Number of wells sunk	...	...	...	...	7
Number of houses connected with water mains	...	...	...	...	344
Number of water certificates granted	...	...	...	...	Nil
Siezure or surrender of unsound food or diseased food	...	...	...	...	7
Conservancy closets replaced by W.Cs.	...	...	...	...	30
Canal Boats — inspections	...	...	...	...	Nil
number on register	...	...	...	...	Nil

## Ice Cream.

Twenty ice cream samples were taken with the following results:

	Grade I	II	III	IV
Walls .....	11	—	1	—
Lyons .....	5	—	—	—
Eldorado .....	1	—	—	—
Enborne Creameries ...	2	—	—	—

### *Milk.*

During 1957 the Local Authority issued 28 licences to retailers as follows:

Tuberculin Tested:	9 dealers
	5 supplementary
Pasteurised:	8 dealers
	4 supplementary
Sterilised:	1 dealer
	1 supplementary

### *Slaughterhouses.*

Two premises were registered during the year. Thirty inspections were carried out.

One of these is only used very occasionally for the killing of pigs. The other operates one day each week.

### *Meat.*

Five cases of unsound meat were dealt with during the year, involving a total of:

75 lb. New Zealand Beef.
30 lb. Ox liver.
116 lb. Australian Beef.

### FOOD & DRUG ACT, 1955

Premises registered under Section 16:

Ice cream retailers	...	...	...	...	59
Sausages, preserved food, etc.	...	...	...	...	18
Number of Dairies registered	...	...	...	...	12
Number of inspections of registered food premises	...	...	...	...	120

### *Milk Samples.*

Samples	procured for	Type of milk	Total Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1.	Examination for TB bacilli ...	Raw T.T.	2	2	—
2.	Methylene Blue test .....	Raw T.T.	2	2	—
3.	Methylene Blue test .....	Past.	23	21 (2 tests void)	—
4.	Phosphatase test .....	Past.	23	23	—

### *Food Hygiene Regulations.*

Further inspections of food premises have been made under the Regulations and improvements have been carried out to bring food premises up to the required standard. Generally, owners have co-operated fully with the Council's requirements, and it has not been necessary to prosecute.

### *Caravan Sites.*

Four hundred and forty-five caravans were licensed during the year. Of these, 338 were on licensed sites, the remaining 107 being individual licenses.



### *Sewerage and Drainage.*

A new scheme at Burghfield was commenced during the year. The works will have a capacity of 90,000 galls. D.W.F.

A small scheme was completed at Ashampstead, to serve a Council Estate. A few private houses can also be connected.

Two private schemes were taken over at Bradfield, one serving the village, and one the College. Works on improvement will be necessary at the works.

The Council also took over the drains and sewers at the A.W.R.E. Housing Estate at Aldermaston. The sewage treatment plant is in the Kingsclere and Whitchurch R.D., and is run by that authority.

### *Refuse Collection and Disposal Scheme.*

A Paxit Diesel 18 cu. yd. Refuse Vehicle was purchased during the year. This was bought to obviate the necessity of running a fourth lorry at the present time.

The scheme continues to work satisfactorily.

### *Shops and Offices.*

During the year 130 inspections were made. No statutory action was necessary.

### *The Housing Acts 1949/54. Improvement Grants.*

During the year 76 grants under the above Acts were authorised.

Of these 3 were for conversions of buildings into dwellings.

9 for division of large houses into self contained units, and  
64 for improvements to existing houses.

### *The Storage of Petroleum Spirit and Mixtures.*

Sixty licences to store petroleum spirit or mixtures were issued during the year. Inspections are made regularly, and alterations to bring installations up to the required standard are complete at nearly all the licensed premises.

# **FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948**

## **Part I of the Act**

### **1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).**

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	14	23	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	75	40	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ... ..	1	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

### **2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.**

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>

# HUNGERFORD RURAL DISTRICT

## Report of Public Health Inspector

### *Water Supplies.*

The District is served mainly by supplies from Lambourn Valley Water Works and Hungerford Water Works and Newbury Corporation. These supplies have been sampled regularly and have proved very satisfactory. The extension of the main in the Sheepdrove area has been commenced and this, when completed, should satisfy all requirements.

Inspection and sampling of private supplies were carried out whenever the need arose and the necessary action taken when the results proved unsatisfactory.

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Samples taken from Public Supplies ...	18	1
Samples taken from Private Supplies ...	12	4
	30	5

### *Sewage Disposal.*

The position with regard to *Hungerford Sewage Scheme* is still uncertain, the condition of the disposal works cannot be improved and the effluent samples continue to be below standard. It is hoped that a scheme for improvement can be commenced during the coming year.

The *Lambourn Valley* and *Kintbury Schemes* have been operating satisfactorily, and effluent reaching the standard required by the Thames Conservancy Board. Connections made during the year are lower than previous years and it would appear that the majority of properties have now been connected.

Lambourn Valley Scheme ...	14
Kintbury Scheme ...	3

### *Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

The improved scheme of refuse collection has now been in operation approximately six months and the fact that few complaints have been received with regard to infrequency of collection would tend to show that it has proved reasonably satisfactory. However, the vehicle used by the private contractor is not the conventional type used for refuse collection and a further improvement in this part of the scheme is very desirable.

The refuse tips at Lower Denford, Woodland St. Mary, Eastbury and Irish Hill have been used during the year. The tip at Eastbury being used solely by the private contractor. Although "controlled tipping" has not been fully carried out, the tips have not given cause for complaint. The siting of the tips in disused pits have shown that "controlled tipping" cannot be carried out under present circumstances.

Since the site at Irish Hill, Kintbury, has come into operation the quantity of refuse taken to the Lower Denford site has diminished but the need for a new site in the Hungerford Parish is still urgent.



*Rodent Control.*

The following table shows the work carried out by the Rodent Operatives under the Joint Committee Scheme:

	Local Authority	Type of property Dwelling Houses	Business & Industrial	Total	Agricul- tural
1. Number of properties inspected as a result					
(a) of notification ...	3	47	10	61	1
(b) otherwise .....	25	66	1	92	—
2. Number of properties (under 1) found to be infested by rats:					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	26	89	9	125	1
3. Number of properties (under 1) found to be seriously infested by mice .....	1	6	2	9	—
4. Number of properties treated under (2 & 3)	27	95	11	134	1

*Factories and Workshops.*

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

*Part I of the Act.*

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	22	31	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	38	44	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	60	75	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		(6)
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient .....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) .....	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	4	4	—	—	—

Sale of Food.

FOOD PREMISES

Number of—Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Caterers (including licenced and industrial)	...	...	...	...	...	64
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	17
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fishmongers and Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	31
Total	...	...	...	...	...	145

Premises registered under Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14:	
Ice Cream retailers	36
Sausages and Preserved Food	8
Number of Dairies registered	5
Number of inspections of registered food premises	115

Condemned Food.

25 tins Tomatoes	3 tins Soup
3 tins Beans	43 lbs. Tinned Meat
5 tins Fruit	79 lbs. Imported Meat

Ice Cream.

In the past year Ice Cream from a different manufacturer has been sold by a newly registered retailer, bringing the total to four and all the samples taken of the four products have been placed in Grade I.

Provisional Grade					No. of samples	
I	....	...	...	...	...	20
II	...	...	...	...	...	—
III	...	...	...	...	...	—
IV	...	...	...	...	...	—

Milk.

Milk and Dairies Regulations: 1949-1954.

MILK SAMPLES

		Type of Milk	Total Samples taken	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Samples procured for submission to:					
1. Methylene Blue					
Test	.....	Pasteurised	24	23	1 (void)
2. Phosphatase Test					
		Pasteurised	24	22	2
3. Turbidity Test					
	...	Sterilised	1	1	—

Caravan Sites.

The two sites in Mill Lane, Lambourn (Maximum 10) and Fairview, Hungerford (Maximum 6), were in operation at the commencement of the year, but the site at Fairview was cleared of caravans by the middle of the year and is no longer used. There are three caravans stationed throughout the district which have temporary permission. It would appear that the housing situation has improved, but enquiries for the stationing of caravans on various sites are frequently being made by persons who are unsatisfactorily housed or prefer the caravan as a home.

Improvement Grants.

The number of applications for Improvement Grants was lower than in 1956 being 32 in respect of 34 dwellings as against 45 applications in respect of 75 dwellings. This was partly due to the suspension of grants in the latter part of the year. (Note.—This suspension has now been lifted and application for grants are again being received and considered).

Meat Inspection.

The two licenced slaughterhouses continued to operate during the year and the following is a list of animals slaughtered, all of which were inspected:

					Number of animals slaughtered	
Cattle	...	...	...	...	50	
Calves	...	...	...	...	30	
Sheep	...	...	...	...	2	
Pigs	...	...	...	...	27	
					109	



# SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING 1957

Number of different premises visited	...	...	...	...	817
Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	872
Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	95
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	57
Number of Notices served—Informal	...	...	...	...	19
Number of Notices served—Statutory	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	—
Number of defects or nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	48

## HOUSING STATISTICS

### 1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	...	405
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	490
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	16
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-heading) not found to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	27

### 2. *Remedy of defects during the year:*

(1) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	23
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

### 3. *Improvement Grants:*

(1) Number of applications	...	...	...	...	32
(2) Number of dwellings	...	...	...	...	34
(3) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	85

# NEWBURY RURAL DISTRICT

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## Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

### *Water.*

The district is now well supplied with main water. During the year extensions to the Newbury Corporation mains at Halfway and Vanners Lane were completed and it was agreed that the Mid Wessex Water Company main should be extended from Midgham Village to the Bath Road. On completion of this extension only a few scattered cottages and isolated areas will be without main water.

Samples: 48 water samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year. Of these 5 from main supplies were all satisfactory as were 11 taken from wells serving private houses. Appropriate action was taken regarding the remaining unsatisfactory samples.

### *Sewerage.*

Progress was made on the preliminary work on the Woolhampton Sewerage scheme. Agreement was reached re the purchasing of land for the pumping station and disposal plant. Instructions were given for the Cold Ash sewerage scheme to be re-examined with a view to the scheme being carried out in the near future.

### *Refuse.*

A weekly collection of refuse from all the district has continued throughout the year. The disposal of refuse at one central tip at Pound Lane, Thatcham has continued during the year. Warm weather in April resulted in a temporary nuisance from flies breeding on the tip. Unfortunately delay in delivery of a new type insecticide due to production difficulties was the cause of the initial nuisance. The new type insecticide was delivered in May and results during the first 14 days of its use were not promising but from then onwards the insecticide proved very satisfactory. Regular meeting with local inhabitants were arranged at the refuse pit and were only discontinued when they were satisfied that no fly nuisance was being caused there. In May a small tractor with shovel attachment was purchased and with the aid of this machine a better covering of soil is provided for the incoming refuse.

### *Caravans.*

The position concerning caravans has altered very little during the year. The Council are, however, hoping for a considerable reduction in the numbers over the near future. Occupiers are being encouraged to make arrangements for a permanent house. During the year 10 caravan dwellers were rehoused in Council Houses, and it is hoped that this figure will be improved on when the houses being built for sale are available. Action was taken against the owner occupier of one caravan which was in poor condition and representation has been made to the Committee for action.

Food.

Number of Food premises in area:

Bakeries and General Grocers	...	...	...	...	8
General Grocers	...	...	...	...	41
Butchers	...	...	...	...	8
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	5
Caterers (including Licensed and Industrial)	...	...	...	...	47

All the above premises were inspected at various times in the year with the exception of some licensed premises. During the month of July an outbreak of food poisoning at a factory canteen was reported and investigated. Thirty people were ill, and one man was detained in hospital overnight. The canteen had only recently been constructed and is equipped with modern apparatus. Although the cause of the outbreak was not definitely pin-pointed, it was thought to be due to the consumption of tinned peas. A few weeks after the outbreak, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Reading who had assisted in the investigations, stated that he had information from the Ministry to the effect that tinned peas had been responsible for a number of outbreaks. The canners had apparently been having difficulty in satisfactorily sealing this particular size of can.

Slaughterhouses.

The main interest in the food inspection side of the Public Health Inspectors work during the year centred round the construction and coming into operation of a Privately owned Slaughter house, mainly for the slaughter of Pigs. The design and construction was carried out by the owner in close co-operation with the Public Health department. The licence was issued on the 1st August, and by the end of the year, 4,700 pigs had been killed and inspected plus 27 sheep and two calves.

Slaughtering is mainly carried out four days a week, with occasional work on Saturdays. Every carcass is inspected and this entails 8-10 hours work per week during normal working hours, and up to 17 hours per month during the evenings. These additional duties have not been performed without inconvenience, for no additional staff have been engaged.

Details of numbers slaughtered and condemnations are as set out in table below:—

		No. of Animals Slaughtered			No. of Whole carcasses condemned	Weight of Meat condemned (lbs.)
		PIGS	SHEEP	CALVES		
August	...	321	—	1	—	344
September	...	950	—	—	—	1,004
October	...	1,031	1	1	5 pigs	1,986
November	...	1,161	—	—	2 pigs	736
December	...	1,237	26	—	1 pig	1,092
TOTALS	...	4,700	27	2	8 pigs	5,162



## Rodent Control.

Treatment as carried out under the Joint scheme with Newbury Borough and Hungerford R.D.C. is set out in the table below:

	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling- houses including Council Houses (2)	All other including Business Premises (3)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3 (4)	Agricul- tural (5)
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District .....	25	5,011	89	5,125	175
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification ...	1	149	16	166	—
(b) Survey under Act ...	16	650	12	678	—
(c) Otherwise ...	25	1,732	89	1,846	9
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections .....	67	7,542	206	7,815	184
4. No. of properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats—					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	10	370	11	391	—
(b) Mice—					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	17	5	22	—
5. No. of infested properties treated by L.A. ....	10	380	16	406	—
6. Total treatments carried out—including retreatments ...	14	429	19	462	—

## Housing.

The end of the year marked the halfway stage in the 5 year period set by the Council for dealing with the properties listed as "Unfit and not repairable at reasonable expense" in the survey made under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. It was felt to be an opportune time to re survey these properties noting any deterioration in the structure and special housing needs of the occupants. To date, of the 270 houses scheduled Post War in the lowest category 111 have been either demolished or an undertaking has been given not to re-let, but a further 159 remain to be dealt with.

## HOUSING TABLE

### *Number of new Dwelling Houses built.*

(1) By Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	45
(2) By Private Persons	...	...	...	...	...	76

### *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

(1) (a) Total number of Dwellings inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	876
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...					943
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	3

### *Remedy of Defects during the year.*

(1) Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...			51
(2) Number of Houses demolished by agreement with owner	...	...	...	...	...	—

### *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of statutory notices	...	...	...	...		1
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...		4
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	...	...		8
(4) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	...	...	...	...	...	1

### *Representations made to the Local Authority with a view to*

(1) The serving of notices requiring the execution of works						1
(2) The making of demolition orders	...	...	...			16

### *Undertakings Given.*

Houses closed after undertaking by owner not to re-let						8
--	--	--	--	--	--	---

### *Improvement Grants.*

The number of grants made for modernisation of private houses	...	...	...	...	...	39
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

## *Part I of the Act.*

### 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	6	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	68	38	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	74	41	—	—

### 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient .....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) .....	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1	1	—	1	—

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